

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 EB-07 CG-00 DOTE-00 TRSE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 L-03 DLOS-04 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /057 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WEDGAR:BG

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EUR/SOV - MGARRISON

OES - NSCHOWENGERDT (SUBS)

EB/TT/MA - RBANK (INFO)

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O 092343Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIETS REQUEST ASSISTANCE FOR GROUNDED
FISHING TRAWLER

REF: MOSCOW 00329

1. IN REPLY TO DEMARCHE BY CHETVERIKOV (REFTEL), EMBASSY
SHOULD INFORM MFA THAT DEPARTMENT IS WORKING CLOSELY
WITH SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON AND USG AGENCIES INVOLVED
IN THIS MATTER (COAST GUARD, CUSTOMS, MARITIME
ADMINISTRATION AND US NAVY SALVOR) TO ENSURE THAT ALL
POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IS GIVEN TO SOVIET TRAWLER SAMARGA
IN ACCORDANCE WITH US LAW.

2. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT UNDER US LAW (46 USC 316D),
NO FOREIGN VESSELS MAY CONDUCT SALVAGE ACTIVITIES IN US
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WATERS UNLESS THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS CERTIFIES THAT

NO US-OWNED VESSELS ARE AVAILABLE TO DO THE WORK. SOVIETS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY TRIED INITIALLY TO USE AN AMERICAN SALVAGE COMPANY WHOSE EQUIPMENT WAS INADEQUATE TO DO THE JOB. OTHER US FACILITIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THE AREA, HOWEVER, AND AS OF FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, THE SOVIET

FLEET COMMANDER WAS NEGOTIATING WITH A US COMPANY TO HAVE A US VESSEL WHICH IS NEARBY CARRY OUT THE NECESSARY SALVAGE OPERATIONS. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS WILL ISSUE A WAIVER TO PERMIT THE SOVIET VESSELS TO DO THE JOB. IF SOVIET VESSELS CONDUCT SALVAGE OPERATIONS IN US TERRITORIAL WATERS WITHOUT THE WAIVER, THEY WILL BE SUBJECT TO SEIZURE AND FINANCIAL PENALTIES.

3. SOVIET VESSELS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN THE AREA, AND TO ATTACH CABLES TO SAMARGA TO HOLD IT IN PLACE, IN ORDER TO PREVENT FURTHER DAMAGE. PROBLEM WITH "SPECIAL CABLE" MENTIONED BY CHETVERIKOV IS THAT SOVIETS INTENDED TO USE IT FOR SALVAGE OPERATIONS BY SOVIET VESSELS. USING CABLE IN THIS WAY WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF US LAW. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP ACCIDENTS, SAMARGA F/V
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE005950
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WEDGAR:BG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760009-0081
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760170/aaaackay.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 329
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIETS REQUEST ASSISTANCE FOR GROUNDED FISHING TRAWLER
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006